

1-1 By: Bohac (Senate Sponsor - Taylor of Galveston) H.B. No. 4064
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2017;
 1-3 May 10, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 19, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 9, Nays 0, 1 present not voting; May 19, 2017, sent to
 1-6 printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Taylor of Galveston	X			
1-9 Lucio	X			
1-10 Bettencourt	X			
1-11 Campbell	X			
1-12 Hall	X			
1-13 Huffines			X	
1-14 Hughes	X			
1-15 Seliger	X			
1-16 Taylor of Collin				X
1-17 Uresti	X			
1-18 West	X			

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to staff development and continuing education
 1-23 requirements for public school educators regarding digital
 1-24 education methods.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Section 21.001, Education Code, is amended to
 1-27 read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 21.001. DEFINITIONS [DEFINITION]. In this chapter:

1-29 (1) "Commissioner" [~~"commissioner"~~] includes a
 1-30 person designated by the commissioner.

1-31 (2) "Digital learning" means any type of learning that
 1-32 is facilitated by technology or instructional practice that makes
 1-33 effective use of technology.

1-34 (3) "Digital literacy" means having the knowledge and
 1-35 ability to use a range of technology tools for varied purposes. The
 1-36 term includes the capacity to use, understand, and evaluate
 1-37 technology for use in education settings.

1-38 SECTION 2. Section 21.044, Education Code, is amended by
 1-39 adding Subsection (c-2) to read as follows:

1-40 (c-2) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate
 1-41 specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a
 1-42 bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as
 1-43 part of the training required to obtain that certificate,
 1-44 instruction in digital learning, including a digital literacy
 1-45 evaluation followed by a prescribed digital learning curriculum.
 1-46 The instruction required must:

1-47 (1) be aligned with the International Society for
 1-48 Technology in Education's standards for teachers;

1-49 (2) provide effective, evidence-based strategies to
 1-50 determine a person's degree of digital literacy; and

1-51 (3) include resources to address any deficiencies
 1-52 identified by the digital literacy evaluation.

1-53 SECTION 3. Sections 21.054(d) and (e), Education Code, are
 1-54 amended to read as follows:

1-55 (d) Continuing education requirements for a classroom
 1-56 teacher must provide that not more than 25 percent of the training
 1-57 required every five years include instruction regarding:

1-58 (1) collecting and analyzing information that will
 1-59 improve effectiveness in the classroom;

1-60 (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a
 1-61 student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

2-1 (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and
2-2 integrating technology into classroom instruction; and
2-3 (4) educating diverse student populations, including:
2-4 (A) students with disabilities, including mental
2-5 health disorders;
2-6 (B) students who are educationally
2-7 disadvantaged;
2-8 (C) students of limited English proficiency; and
2-9 (D) students at risk of dropping out of school.
2-10 (e) Continuing education requirements for a principal must
2-11 provide that not more than 25 percent of the training required every
2-12 five years include instruction regarding:
2-13 (1) effective and efficient management, including:
2-14 (A) collecting and analyzing information;
2-15 (B) making decisions and managing time; and
2-16 (C) supervising student discipline and managing
2-17 behavior;
2-18 (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a
2-19 student may be at risk of dropping out of school;
2-20 (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and
2-21 integrating technology into campus curriculum and instruction; and
2-22 (4) educating diverse student populations, including:
2-23 (A) students with disabilities, including mental
2-24 health disorders;
2-25 (B) students who are educationally
2-26 disadvantaged;
2-27 (C) students of limited English proficiency; and
2-28 (D) students at risk of dropping out of school.
2-29 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
2-30 amended by adding Section 21.0543 to read as follows:
2-31 Sec. 21.0543. CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT FOR INSTRUCTION
2-32 RELATED TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY. The board shall propose rules
2-33 allowing an educator to receive credit toward the educator's
2-34 continuing education requirements for completion of education
2-35 courses that:
2-36 (1) use technology to increase the educator's digital
2-37 literacy; and
2-38 (2) assist the educator in the use of digital
2-39 technology in learning activities that improve teaching,
2-40 assessment, and instructional practices.
2-41 SECTION 5. Section 21.451, Education Code, is amended by
2-42 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (d-3) to read as
2-43 follows:
2-44 (d) The staff development:
2-45 (1) may include training in:
2-46 (A) technology;
2-47 (B) conflict resolution;
2-48 (C) discipline strategies, including classroom
2-49 management, district discipline policies, and the student code of
2-50 conduct adopted under Section 37.001 and Chapter 37; ~~and~~
2-51 (D) preventing, identifying, responding to, and
2-52 reporting incidents of bullying; and
2-53 (E) digital learning;
2-54 (2) subject to Subsection (e) and to Section 21.3541
2-55 and rules adopted under that section, must include training that is
2-56 evidence-based ~~[based on scientifically based research]~~, as
2-57 defined by Section 8101, Every Student Succeeds Act ~~[9101, No Child~~
2-58 ~~Left Behind Act of 2001]~~ (20 U.S.C. Section 7801), that:
2-59 (A) relates to instruction of students with
2-60 disabilities; and
2-61 (B) is designed for educators who work primarily
2-62 outside the area of special education; and
2-63 (3) must include suicide prevention training that must
2-64 be provided:
2-65 (A) on an annual basis, as part of a new employee
2-66 orientation, to all new school district and open-enrollment charter
2-67 school educators; and
2-68 (B) to existing school district and
2-69 open-enrollment charter school educators on a schedule adopted by

3-1 the agency by rule.

3-2 (d-3) The digital learning training provided by Subsection
3-3 (d)(1)(E) must:

3-4 (1) discuss basic technology proficiency expectations
3-5 and methods to increase an educator's digital literacy; and

3-6 (2) assist an educator in the use of digital
3-7 technology in learning activities that improve teaching,
3-8 assessment, and instructional practices.

3-9 SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
3-10 school year.

3-11 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3-12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3-13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3-14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3-15 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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